

CELEBRITY TRAVEL

Star goes back to Ireland to golf more

By Jae-Ha Kim
Tribune Content Agency

Brian d'Arcy James said when he was a young actor, he couldn't have imagined landing prominent roles in three major projects in one year.

"You never really aim to try to orchestrate these kinds of things," said James, who this year is in a film ("The Family McMullen"), a series ("The Copenhagen Test") and an off-Broadway show ("Anna Christie"). "Generally speaking, actors fall into the beggars-can't-be-choosers category and so you just keep your head down swinging, trying to move forward with any kind of opportunities that come along. But a year with projects across the board in these categories is exciting."

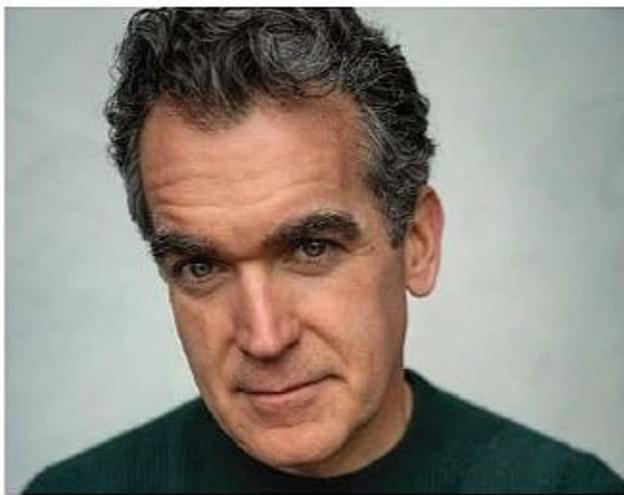
This interview with James has been edited for clarity and length.

Q: Where did you film "The Family McMullen" and "The Copenhagen Test"?

A: "The Family McMullen" was filmed in the New York area. It's always very nice being able to shoot a film or TV show in your backyard. But it's also great to go to different places for work as with "The Copenhagen Test." We shot that in Toronto. It's such a great, vibrant town with a ton of production happening there. And its proximity to New York is great. If you have a little break, it doesn't take long to get home.

Q: What is your family lineage?

A: My ancestry is mostly Irish, with a little Welsh in



Actor Brian d'Arcy James got engaged in Costa Rica and calls it a "stunning country." **YELLOWBELLY**

there, too. Kelly, O'Brien and Cullaton are all family names, so I've always had a strong connection to my Irish heritage. I'm named after my uncles Brian Kelly and D'Arcy James.

Q: As a musician, you also sang the national anthem at sporting events.

A: A few NBA games, a number of MLB games and one NFL game. My favorite experience so far (was) singing the national anthem for a Monday Night Football game in Detroit for my favorite team, the Lions. I got a little nod of encouragement from coach Dan Campbell before I started and that may be my career highlight.

Q: Have you visited places for work that were so nice that you traveled back there later for a trip?

A: I just recently did this very thing. Ireland. Last summer I shot an Ed Burns movie where the bulk of the story takes place on different Irish golf courses. We played some extraordinary courses, and I'm now a crazy golf fanatic. And so when we wrapped that film, I knew I wanted to get back to these locations to experience them from a pure enjoyment factor. So coming back this summer to the west coast of Ireland and simply playing golf with no other distractions was a blast.

Q: What is your favorite

vacation destination?

A: I think I'd have to say Costa Rica. It's a stunning country and the people there are so beautiful and kind. My wife and I got engaged there, so that makes it stand out as my favorite place.

Q: Where are your favorite weekend getaways?

A: We have a little house just over an hour outside New York City. That's my No. 1 favorite weekend place — trees, some air, a bit of solitude. I've come to really desire that.

Q: What is your best or worst vacation memory?

A: There is a legendary story in our family of the worst vacation ever. It was a trip to Florida in the early '80s that my parents planned. They saw an ad promising a luxurious condominium amidst rows and rows of glorious orange trees. If I recall correctly, the condo wasn't finished being built, and I'm not sure what the deal was with the orange groves, but they essentially amounted to rows of dirt with maybe a few scrawny bushes. On top of it, someone got chicken pox and someone else sprained their ankle. We had a family meeting and determined that the vacation might be more relaxing if it was over. We all instantly agreed and headed home.

For more from the reporter, visit www.jaehakim.com.

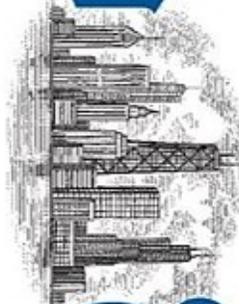


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